

## Petroleum Interests Are United

Unprecedented Co-Operation Assured by Meeting in New York; Oil Men Made Great Record During War—Bedford Honored



A. C. Bedford.

**WASHINGTON.** March 22.—Co-operation such as never before has been realized in the petroleum world. It is predicted that no record of the dinner in New York a little over a week ago, following the adjourned session of an all-powerful representative oil men at which the American petroleum institute was organized. When the leaders in this great industry gather at Chicago this week, if the forecast made by those who know most about oil here and in New York comes true, who will not attend the New York meeting will be surprised to see the solid backing that the new organization already has attained.

In it is represented every phase of the petroleum industry from the refined gasoline, kerosene and Mexican to the crude oil, representatives of six hundred oil companies of most other corporate oil interests, subsidiary and independent from the producer to the broker.

**Bedford Receives Cross.**

At the dinner following the adjourned session in New York, Alfred C. Bedford, chairman of the board of directors of the Standard Oil company and chairman of the National petroleum war service committee, was honored as a representative from the federal government of the cross of a chevalier of the legion d'honneur for the part he played in helping the allies to "lead to victory on a sea of oil."

Tentative governmental approval at least was given to the new American Petroleum Institute in a message sent to the war service committee by Fuel Administrator Harry H. Garfield, and which was read to the oil men who attended the dinner in honor of Mr. Bedford. Mr. Garfield urged continued "in some effective way" of the co-operation between the nation's oil industry and the government and emphasizing the value to the allies that such co-operation by the industry under the supervision of the fuel administration brought about during the war.

**Garfield's Letter.**

This letter, which conveyed Mr. Garfield's regrets that he was unable to attend the gathering, said in part:

"Permit me to take this occasion to express to the committee my appreciation of its services, and to convey to Mr. Bedford my felicitations upon the honor paid to him. I can well understand the desire of the French government to recognize the services of Mr. Bedford and his committee. It is unnecessary to recite the important part played by petroleum in the war. Abundant testimony has been offered by the chiefs of our naval and military forces to justify those immediately engaged in the production of a distinctive type of munition and its products in claiming place among the few great basic industries which furnished the supplies necessary to winning the war."

The national petroleum committee was in existence prior to the creation of the fuel administration. It had brought together in effective co-operation the competing elements of the industry. But to my mind a more significant fact was the real result of the committee's call to service by the government. The supervision of the industry required under the provisions of the Lever act and by executive order of the president might have been rendered exceedingly difficult, but the relations established between Mr. Requa, general director of the oil division of the fuel administration, and Mr. Bedford, chairman of the national petroleum war service committee, guaranteed the cordial co-operation which has marked the relations between the government and the industry since the first day.

"I cannot allow this occasion to pass without expressing the earnest hope that the spirit of co-operation thus established between the government and the industry—I might rather say between the public represented by government, and the industry—should be continued in some effective way. The influences which led capital and labor to unite in a common purpose, which overcame hurtful competition, and which brought the representatives of government and industry into cordial and effective co-operation, though the ties still exist for the few who sought material gain, they are rooted in desire for the common good and appreciation of a new era in which human welfare is placed above material possessions."

"We have refused to allow one world group to dominate other world groups. Free people who are also understanding people, perceive that the spirit, not the form, of autocracy exists in capitalism, and that this spirit exists within the walls as well as abroad, and is expressed in movements organized and supported by the extremists at each end of the social and economic scale. The national petroleum war service committee which has so effectively and generously co-operated with the government during the war will unquestionably see both the wisdom and the necessity of continuing that co-operation to make safe the democracy for which we have fought."

**No Antagonism.**

Mr. Bedford, who went to Washington some time previous to the meeting, is the author of the statement that neither the federal trade commission and the department of justice are antagonistic to the plan of the new organization. The American petroleum institute, as was pointed out by Mr. Peck, oil editor of The Tulsa World, when the first announcements were made of the proposed organization, is in many respects analogous to the American iron and steel institute in the steel trade.

It was emphasized many times during the New York meeting that the American petroleum institute is in no way to represent a business combination. The objects of the organization do not even include the union of the various oil interests in export business, as provided in the new legislation, it is said. On the contrary, the plan is for it merely to afford a clearing house for ideas and methods. And while some of those who attended the meeting predicted that it marked the end of the war between the large producers and dealers and the independents, there was a difference of opinion at this point.

Indicative of the character of the meeting, however, it was pointed out that probably never before had a man like Mr. Bedford sat around the festive board with such industrial competitors as Henry L. Doherty, who acted as toastmaster; George S. Lawson, president of the Gulf Refining company; Judge M. J. Byrne,

heads of oil allies Great Britain, France and Italy, not to say the representatives and diplomats of foreign governments. The dinner, it is noted, cost a part of the amount of \$100,000 collected about one year ago but two years. The war situation threw a tremendous burden on the refineries on the Atlantic seaboard, with the resultant necessity for an increase in pipe lines. Extensions amounting to several hundred miles of pipe lines were undertaken by several companies.

The western theater depended almost entirely on American oil. In 1914 Germany, Austria and Italy were sold. The aggregate production of the United States in 1914 250,000,000 barrels had jumped in 1918 to 340,000,000 barrels, and almost every month a million a ton.

Exports of crude oil consumption in 1917 exceeded the production, necessitating withdrawal from storage while in 1918 the consumption of crude oil here reached the huge total of 292,000,000 barrels.

A continually greater proportion of the gasoline was extracted from the crude oil, rising from 72,000,000 gallons barrels in 1914 to an estimated 21,316,000 barrels in 1918.

**Every Need Met.**

"Needs of the fighting forces of both the army and the navy have been met and the industry has not suffered. The people of this country were called on to undergo a brief period of laissez faire but it was not because of that that there was a real hardship in them. Certainly they did not suffer in this respect as did our European allies where the private use of gasoline for passenger cars was stopped and under a rationing system gasoline was only permitted to be used for urgent business purposes."

"But the measures taken by the industry did not stop at an effort to increase production, but included a policy of ship construction. It was this ship building program, launched by private initiative in the uncertain days of 1914, which made possible for this country in the deadling stages of the war to abundantly provide for the requirements of France and Italy in addition to meeting all the needs of our own army and navy."

"When the war closed the American tankers abroad had increased 655,567 gross tons and 31 per cent of the total gross tonnage of the tankers in service between this country, Great Britain, France and Italy was American owned, while Italy was American owned, while 16 per cent was British owned. Because it did not suffer in this respect as did our European allies where the private use of gasoline for passenger cars was stopped and under a rationing system gasoline was only permitted to be used for urgent business purposes."

"The petroleum industry has been free from government regulation and is a complicated and highly technical business. We went to Washington and said to our officials, 'We want to work with you and we will give you our best, our all.'

"They look us at our word. They believed in our disinterestedness and patriotism and they were willing to let us handle the details so long as we produced the results. In that respect the record that I have recounted speaks eloquently."

"We were fortunate in being able to co-operate with Doctor Fielder of the United States fuel administration and Mr. Requa, director general of the oil division of the fuel administration. I desire to pay high tribute to their fairness and broadmindedness and splendid cooperation."

Other representatives of the government who spoke to the New York gathering in approval of the organization of the American petroleum institute were Mr. Requa, Mr. Van H. Manning, chief of the bureau of mines of the interior department, and T. C. O'Donnell, chief of the production office of the oil division of the fuel administration.

**BAKER SAYS HE WILL GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO LEAGUE**

**EL PASO, TEXAS.** March 22.—When President Wilson comes back from France with the treaty of peace containing the league of nations designed to save the world from a repetition of that awful catastrophe through which it has just passed, I am going to be for that league and I will not be alone," secretary Newell D. Baker declared here last night in an address.

"Over in France they are writing a treaty of peace to end this war," he continued.

"We have a chance there realising that the construction of the league of nations which will substitute intelligence and arbitration for war, be included in it. This is not a partisan question in this country and rightly so. The most effective advocate of the league of nations is ex-President Taft, whose speeches have been eloquent in its behalf. It is a question of making such arrangements that will unite the forces of intelligence of mankind and substitute arbitration for war in deciding international disputes."

"Shall we have a league of nations founded on agreed covenants or a league in which every nation may be a member of a body formed for the purpose of bringing together the intelligence of mankind on international disputes and thus ending war?"

"The difficulty with us is we have not looked war in the face."

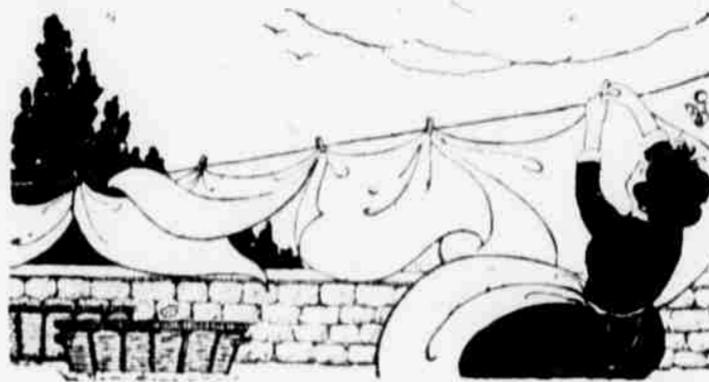
**Bolshevist Ambassador Arrives in New York**

**WASHINGTON.** March 22.—The state department today received a communication from Lubianka, Russia, to General Kaledin, ambassador to New York, which announced Thursday that he had credentials from the Russian Bolshevik government as ambassador to the United States.

When America entered the war representatives of the various oil companies gathered at Washington at the request of the government as part of a council of national defense. Every oil man in the country was invited.

"Careful and thorough investigations were made covering not only the actual war necessities but domestic needs. This investigation covered not only our needs but the date to be allocated for the

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## ATTENTION! SCHOOL PATRONS!

Reconstruction times are here and schools are necessary. As parents or patrons, where are your interests? The universal answer is "In our Homes, our Children, our Schools."

Are you interested in the question confronting the people of Tulsa, i. e. THREE MONTHS or NINE MONTHS school? If so, will you carry this issue to your neighbors and enlist their interest and support for the EXCESS LEVY?

### Vote Tuesday, March 25th "For the Levy"

This will insure a nine-months' term and the efficiency of the school system will be continued. The reasons:

January, 1918, Enumeration, 13,453

January, 1919, Enumeration, 15,556

Net Increase, 2,103

1918-19—450 Teachers

1919-20—515 Teachers (Estimated)

Tulsa's school enrollment calls for an increase of fifty rooms. There are now fifty wooden portable buildings in use. Tulsa needs one hundred new rooms before next September in order to provide for its children equal school opportunities. If you favor giving every child these equal opportunities

### Vote for the Bond Issue, Tuesday, March 25th

REASONS: 2,000 children without room—2,000 children in wooden annexes, all buildings crowded.

RESULT IF ISSUE FAILS: 4,000 children deprived of equal school privileges—forced into half-day schools.

War times necessitate increased cost. Teachers salaries must be increased, materials cost more and the per capita cost must necessarily be greater. Do you believe that?

"This is no time for modest or timid demands. There never was a time in the history of the world when the training and protection of children was as important as it is today. We are laying down a load of national indebtedness of an amount which we have not yet dared to estimate. We are leaving them to solve those social and economic problems whose solutions we have postponed with increasing difficulty each year. We are expecting them to live down to the standards of health, habits and reorganization of our international relationships on the basis of our common interest. Whether or not the children of the world are prepared for this task depends on whether the leaders in education are going to be able to put forward and secure public support for the educational program which the times demand."—Grace Abbott, Director Child Labor Division, Children's Bureau, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

"The best patriotism consists in the best education for all the children, now as never before."—P. P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education.

President Wilson says: "The world must be made safe for democracy. The public schools are the hope of our democracy. Keep the schools up to the greatest efficiency."

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